

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/553,935

Examiner

Tamiko D. Bellamy

Applicant(s)

KUES ET AL.

Art Unit

2856

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/20/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                     |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/20/05</u> | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                   | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

**DETAILED ACTION*****Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1-32 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Re claim 1, the independent claim includes "means for individually and sequentially exposing the sorbent unit to the fluid" in combination with the remaining claim limitation is not taught and/or made obvious by the prior art. Ishikawa et al., considered closest to related art, teaches a housing (e.g. column 1), and plurality of alternating a sorbent material (A1 to A12) and interconnecting zones (B1 to B11) disposed longitudinally through the housing (e.g., column 1) (See fig. 1). Ishikawa et al. teaches introducing feed stock (e.g., aqueous solution of fructose and glucose) and a desorbent (e.g., water) through a plurality of pipelines (2-5) (Col. 3, lines 33-45; Col. 7, lines 20-26). Ishikawa et al. does not teach a **means for individually and sequentially exposing the sorbent unit to the fluid**. Davis, Jr. et al., considered closest to related art, teaches a housing (e.g. column 1), and plurality of alternating a sorbent material (16) and columnar partition disc (14) disposed longitudinally through the housing (e.g., column 1) (See fig. 1). Davis, Jr. et al. does not teach a **means for individually and sequentially exposing the sorbent unit to the fluid**.

Re claim 19, the independent claim includes "moving the stack of sorbent units and spacer units longitudinally through the housing to position a following individual sorbent unit into alignment with the fluid inlet aperture" in combination with the remaining claim limitation is not taught and/or made obvious by the prior art. Ishikawa et al., considered closest to related art, teaches a housing (e.g. column 1), and plurality of alternating a sorbent material (A1 to A12)

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and interconnecting zones (B1 to B11) disposed longitudinally through the housing (e.g., column 1) (See fig. 1). Ishikawa et al. teaches introducing feed stock (e.g., aqueous solution of fructose and glucose) and a desorbent (e.g., water) through a plurality of pipelines (2-5) (Col. 3, lines 33-45; Col. 7, lines 20-26). Ishikawa et al. does not teach **moving the stack of sorbent units and spacer units longitudinally through the housing to position a following individual sorbent unit into alignment with the fluid inlet aperture**. Davis, Jr. et al., considered closest to related art, teaches a housing (e.g. column 1), and plurality of alternating a sorbent material (16) and columnar partition disc (14) disposed longitudinally through the housing (e.g., column 1). Davis, Jr. et al. does not teach **moving the stack of sorbent units and spacer units longitudinally through the housing to position a following individual sorbent unit into alignment with the fluid inlet aperture**.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tamiko D. Bellamy whose telephone number is (571) 272-2190. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tamiko Bellamy

*T.B.*  
November 14, 2006

  
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